

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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PARISH BULLETIN

21st November 2021

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2021

9.30 am	Mornington	D Poultney
10.00am	Mosgiel	Davis
11.00am	Glenaven	Hughson
	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

24 November @2pm – Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship
5 December @10am – Joint Service @ Mornington Methodist Church

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CHRISTMAS MEETING: Wednesday 24th November, 2021 at 2pm at the home of Eldon and Andrea Mosley at 89 Grendon Street, Maori Hill.

All are invited to the Christmas celebration meeting of the Mornington Methodist Women's Fellowship. Margaret Connor has kindly organised a Christmas theme for us all to participate in.

We welcome all members of the MWF and our friends from the Church to join us. Parking and access is very easy at Grendon Street and Miss Daisy can drop people off at the door. There are 2 small steps we can help people to negotiate. We look forward to seeing you all.

JOINT SERVICE AT MORNINGTON

At 10am on the 5th December the General Secretary, the Rev Tara Tautiri, will be with us. You are invited to a joint service at Mornington, where she shall preach.

ON FILMING AND UPLOADING SERVICES AT MORNINGTON

Services at Mornington are now filmed and uploaded to the Mornington Methodist YouTube channel. In line with guidelines from the Methodist Church of New Zealand we have decided that children will not be filmed and out of respect for the sensitivities of many, when we celebrate Holy Communion, between the invitation to the Table and the Post Communion prayer, the camera will pan to the organ pipes so no one is seen.

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION – Susan Hamel of the Mornington congregation, an ordained interfaith minister, is doing a CPE course (clinical pastoral education) and as part of that she is having a series of pastoral conversations which are written up - while preserving anonymity - and presented in her study group.

If you would be willing to have a pastoral conversation with Susan, please contact her on sfh1959@gmail.com



A CONNECTIONS OPEN ARTICLE ON THE ARCHIBALD BAXTER MEMORIAL

A MEMORIAL TO PEACE AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

The Archibald Baxter Memorial Trust has announced the opening of the Archibald Baxter Peace Garden and national memorial to all conscientious objectors in New Zealand. The memorial uniquely honours the courage of Archibald Baxter and other World War 1 conscientious objectors to war, as well as those detained for their beliefs in World War 2 and in other wars that New Zealand has been involved in. There are thousands of war memorials in New Zealand to those who died in the Boer War and the two world wars, but this is the first memorial to those who chose not to fight.

This memorial does not detract from their bravery of those who fought for their country and died or were traumatised by their experiences. Rather it complements the courage of those who fought by focusing on those who chose *not* to fight, which required a different kind of courage. Their stand against state-sponsored killing was thought unorthodox and unpatriotic. They had to endure threats from the state, public opprobrium, imprisonment and considerable uncertainty about whether they might be killed, intentionally or unintentionally, for refusing to put on the uniform.

Archibald Baxter was one of those who chose not to kill and he suffered enormously as a consequence. Baxter was a gentle man, who early in life became convinced of the futility of war, and determined as a matter of conscience that he would not participate in military conflict. This became a personal stand that put him in conflict with the government of New Zealand, when all eligible men were expected to join Mother Britain in a conflict that still to this day remains a war without rationale.

He and fellow objectors Mark Briggs and Lawrence Kirwin endured the ravages of field punishment No 1, known by soldiers as the crucifixion. This punishment would be considered state-sponsored torture today. Military defaulters and conscientious objectors were tied to a pole, erected close to the front lines, causing blood to flow to the feet and generate excruciating pain in the legs and back. Baxter had to endure this punishment near Ypres with shells falling all around. Baxter and the others suffered to the end because they

believed that there was absolutely no argument that could justify industrial-scale slaughter. As Baxter said: "I have suffered to the limit of my endurance, but I will never in my sane senses surrender to the evil power that has fixed its roots like a cancer on the world."

By his actions, Archibald Baxter paved the way for others to object to World War 2, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. All those who have disobeyed what they considered to be illegitimate or unethical authority in times of war have powerfully contributed to New Zealand's non-violent traditions. These began with Te Whiti and the people of Parihaka, who non-violently resisted the state's occupation of their land, and have continued to this day in the actions of pacifists and peacemakers here and everywhere.

This peace garden, therefore, while inspired by Baxter, is also dedicated to all those heroic New Zealanders who have conscientiously objected to war in challenging circumstances. Their disobedience to authority in relation to war has enlarged the civil liberties of us all.

The trust hopes that this memorial will be a place for reflection on the folly of war; a place of peace and tranquillity; a place of remembering and a place of commitment to a more just and peaceful world. This memorial stands to remind both current and future generations that violence is never inevitable, and that there are always far more positive and less destructive ways of resolving differences.

This world is broken in many different ways, and we need the healing balm of peaceful rather than violent solutions. If this small space, honouring all those who chose an alternative to militarism, can make a contribution to non-violence as a tactic and a way of life, we will have fulfilled part of our dream. Let there be peace, and let it begin with each one of us.

The trust hopes that this memorial will stand forever as a sign of our commitment to peace, here in Dunedin and throughout the world. We hope that it will inspire visitors on the way of peace, in memory of the thousands of courageous people who, throughout history, have chosen the path of non-violence rather than that of violence.

This material has been reprinted from the ODT, October 28, 2021 issue. Have you visited this powerful and moving memorial garden at the head of Albany Street?